



Boulder Creek

FEATURES

- 81 Feet - Boulder Creek Falls
- 3.2 miles one way; 1,000 feet elevation change
- Variety of native trees
- Debris flows from Shasta Bally batholith
- Suitable for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians



Boulder Creek Falls

DIRECTIONS

Seven miles west of the Visitor Center off Hwy 299, turn south on Carr Powerhouse Road. Continue past the powerhouse 2.7 miles on South Shore Drive to the trailhead on the right side of the road. Limited parking is available across the road.

The same trailhead can also be approached from Kennedy Memorial Drive. From the memorial at the dam, drive west 4.3 miles to Dry Creek and turn left. Follow South Shore Drive 2.7 miles to the trailhead.

The upper end of the trail is accessible from Mill Creek Road, which splits off Carr Powerhouse Road just north of the powerhouse parking lot. There is a fork in the road at 0.3 miles; take the right leg. The trailhead is marked 1.4 miles farther.

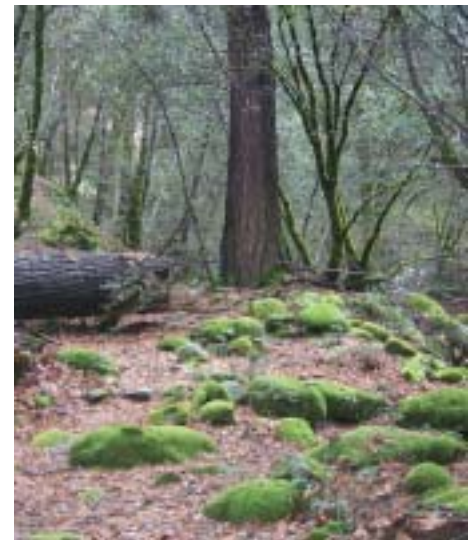


Boulder Creek Trail

SAFETY

Wet and slippery stones make stream crossings extremely dangerous most of the year. Take only short steps from dry rock to dry rock. Never take long strides or leaps and never step on submerged rocks. It is advisable to find a shallow spot and wade across.

Poison oak is abundant on the trails, especially on the lower section. Recognize the characteristic three leaves and give it plenty of room.



Boulder Creek area - beautiful!

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The first mile of the trail treks up a wide but exposed logging road through a thicket of white leaf manzanita, knobcone pines, red-buds, wild grape and poison oak. As you approach the creek this brush land transitions into a forest of ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and canyon live oaks. On sunny early spring or fall days in a clearing just before the first creek crossing you may see thousands of ladybugs on the side of the trail.

The trail follows the creek for the next half-mile, eventually making four crossings. Along the creek bracken and sword ferns abound. Just past the third crossing on either side of the trail are several deteriorating foundations of a residence last occupied in the 1960s. A little farther the trail forks; take the right fork. You will come to a nice stand of big leaf maples as you approach the final crossing, where there is a sign marking the falls.

The short side trail to the falls can be misleading. Head for the steps on the left and follow them up the hill to the rocky vantage point where the main falls can be seen. The height of the falls facing you is 81 ft. with an additional 28 ft. of cascades above.

The upper section of the trail is shaded by black oaks, Douglas firs, and knobcone pines. Other trees present in abundance are tan oaks, western dogwoods, and incense cedars. The trail terminates at Mill Creek Road. Taking this road to the right will return you to the Carr powerhouse 1.7 miles distant or you may return back to your vehicle the way you came.



Lower Pool

Boulder Creek cuts through Copley greenstone, a Devonian metamorphic rock of near-shore oceanic origin formed about 400 million years ago. It ranges in color from dull orange and light brown to dark blue-green. Weathered and eroded trailside exposures are soft and friable.

Along the trail and in the creek bed you will see numerous areas where the greenstone is capped with granitic boulders and soil. These are debris flows from the Shasta Bally batholith (Cretaceous, 133 million years) that from time to time have washed down the

mountain into the creek valley. A particularly good exposure of this is a trailside outcrop several hundred yards above the falls.

Across the Mill Creek Road at the upper trailhead is a majestic ravine that follows the Hoadley fault through much of the park. The

Hoadley is an extensional fault, slightly older than the Shasta Bally batholith.



GEOLOGY

FLORA

The following plants can be found along the trail. The trail description notes locations where they are in abundance.

Smaller plants:

- White leaf manzanita
- California wild grape
- Poison oak
- Bracken fern, sword fern
- Mistletoe
- St. John's wort
- Snowdrop bush
- Ceanothis
- California everlast
- Wild iris
- Wild ginger

Trees:

- Knobcone pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine
- Douglas fir
- Black oak, tan oak, canyon live oak
- Big leaf maple
- Western dogwood
- Redbud
- Incense cedar

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Funds for printing provided by Western National Parks Association

